

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a printing system for using a plurality of processing nodes for parallel processing of a print job into a printer-ready format for the printing of the print job, comprising:

splitting the print job into a plurality of job chunks;

assigning the job chunks to respective processing nodes for processing the job chunks into the printer-ready format;

in response to a page fault, executing an auto recovery in serial mode of operation, wherein the print job is redirected, without being split, to a single processing node; and

subjecting the redirected print job at the single processing node to serial processing.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of purging all other pages in the print job from the system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of writing a log message in an error log for the redirected print job.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of parallel processing a second print job at a plurality of processing nodes other than the single processing node while the redirected print job is subject to serial processing.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a printing system ~~for~~ using a plurality of processing ~~modes~~ nodes for parallel processing of a print job into a printer-ready format for the printing of the print job, comprising:

splitting the print job into a plurality of job chunks;

assigning the job chunks to respective processing nodes for processing the job chunks into the printer-ready format; and

enabling parallel processing of an unprotected PostScript job according to first and second processing modes respectively set according to a first and second respective job attributes;

wherein the implementation of the first processing mode causes the print job to be split and chunks to be fed independently to a plurality of unprotected processing nodes, and wherein the implementation of the second processing mode is implemented using redundant mode processing in which the ~~entire~~ print job is sent concurrently to a plurality of unprotected processing nodes.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 5, wherein the a first job attribute is provided in the form of Unprotected Read Only and the second job attribute is provided in the form of Unprotected Read Write.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 5, further comprising the step of implementing a password to enforce virtual memory write permissions for the first processing mode, so as to fault a read only job that attempts to write to virtual memory.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 5, further comprising the step of causing selected processing nodes to complete any prior jobs before switching to redundant mode processing.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a printing system ~~for~~ using a plurality of processing ~~modes~~ nodes for parallel processing of a print job into a printer-ready format for the printing of the print job, comprising:

splitting the print job into a plurality of job chunks;

assigning the job chunks to respective processing nodes for processing the job chunks into the printer-ready format;

performing auto-discovery of system hardware resources, wherein the available hardware resources are determined;

determining an optimal number of processing nodes for performing parallel processing of the print job in response to the determination of available hardware resources; and

operating the optimal number of processing nodes to perform the intended parallel processing of the print job.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 9, further comprising the step of setting the predetermined number of processing nodes to a single processing node in response to a determination of insufficient resources for performing parallel processing of the print job.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 9, further comprising the step of displaying at a graphical user interface at least one of the values of maximum, recommended, and allocated parallel RIP nodes.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 11, further comprising providing the step of alteration by a user of the value of at least one of the values of maximum, recommended, and allocated parallel RIP nodes.

13. (New) A method of operating a printing system using a plurality of processing nodes for parallel processing of a print job into a printer-ready format for the printing of the print job, comprising:

splitting the print job into a plurality of job chunks;

assigning the job chunks to respective processing nodes for processing the job chunks into the printer-ready format; and

providing queue level control prior to the steps of splitting and assigning, wherein the print job may be alternatively submitted to a serial queue.

14. (New) The method as defined in claim 13, wherein the step of providing queue level control includes setting a queue property, wherein the queue property is operative to enable or disable the processing of job chunks.